

SENATOR GREGG CONTINUES THE CAMPAIGN TO FULLY FUND SPECIAL EDUCATION

When the federal government enacted the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1975, it promised to fund 40% of the cost of special education. IDEA requires local schools to provide a free and adequate public education for special needs students. However, the major burden for funding special education costs remains on state governments. In 1996, before Senator Gregg began pressing for change, the federal government's share of special education costs was approximately 6 percent. This year—as a result of Senator Gregg's work—the federal share is projected to be 17 percent. For New Hampshire, this means the state will likely see an increase of more than \$22 million from the 1996 amount. These additional funds have significantly helped defray local costs of providing special education services.

Because Senator Gregg is concerned about local schools and communities as they continue to struggle with fulfilling IDEA requirements without the promised resources, he will continue his efforts to see that IDEA receives greater funding through the framework of a balanced budget. Senator Gregg will continue to use his positions on the Committee on Appropriations and as the Chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions to continue to work towards full funding of special education.

NH's Share of Special Education Dollars Up Nearly \$22 million Since 1996

Fiscal Year	NH's Share of Federal IDEA Funds	IDEA Annual Increase in Total Dollars	Total IDEA Funds Nationwide
1996	\$10,170,737	----	\$2.3 billion
1997	\$13,923,843	\$786 million	\$3.1 billion
1998	\$16,861,522	\$692 million	\$3.8 billion
1999	\$19,016,870	\$510 million	\$4.3 billion
2000	\$21,791,090	\$679 million	\$5.0 billion
2001	\$27,359,981	\$1.35 billion	\$6.3 billion
2002	\$32,080,256	\$1.2 billion	\$7.5 billion
2003	\$35,915,297 (projected)	\$1 billion	\$8.5 billion (President's request)

For FY 2002, Senator Gregg personally saw to it that the federal budget included an additional \$1.2 billion for special education.